

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. -- National Stage Entry of PCT/JP99/06243

wherein one of R¹ and R² is -NH₂ and another one is -NH₂, -OH or -SH, R³ is -SO₂-, -O-, -CO-, an alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a perfluoroalkylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a single bond.

2 8. (Amended) A process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer of
Claim 2, which comprises polymerizing a fluorine-containing monomer by using, as one
of a polymerization initiator and/or monomer, a compound giving carboxyl group to a
trunk chain and/or branched chain and treating a polymerization product with an acid.

Subs ~~12.~~ 12. (Amended) The fluorine-containing elastomer of Claim 10, which
satisfies the following equation (1):

$$(S_{Co}/S_{Cf}) \times (D/D_p) \times (F/F_p) \geq 0.01 \quad (1)$$

wherein S_{Co}, S_{Cf}, D, D_p, F and F_p represent the following respective values.

S_{Co}: Total area of absorbances at the absorptions derived from carbonyl group of
associated and non-associated carboxyl groups having the absorption peaks at from 1,680
to 1,830 cm⁻¹ when measurement is made with FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be
measured.

S_{Cf}: Area of absorbance at absorption derived from a harmonic sound of C-F bond
having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,840 cm⁻¹ when measurement is made with
FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be measured. In case where nitrile group is
present, S_{Cf} is a value obtained by subtracting an area of absorbance at absorption

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. -- National Stage Entry of PCT/JP99/06243

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derived from nitrile group having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,300 cm⁻¹ from a total area of absorbances at whole absorption having a peak at from 2,220 to 2,840 cm⁻¹.

D: Specific gravity of the aimed elastomer at 20°C.

Dp: Specific gravity (measured value: 2.03) at 20°C of a standard perfluoro elastomer (copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro(methyl vinyl ether) in a mole ratio of 58/42).

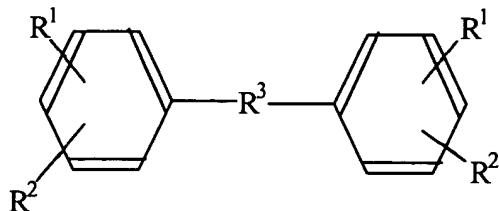
F: Fluorine content (% by weight) of the elastomer to be measured obtained by elemental analysis.

Fp: Fluorine content (measured value: 71.6 % by weight) of said standard perfluoro elastomer obtained by elemental analysis.

13. (Amended) A crosslinked fluorine-containing rubber molded article obtained by crosslinking the fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of Claim 2.

Please add the following new claims:

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14. (New) The fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking which comprises 100 parts of the fluorine-containing elastomer of Claim 3 and 0.5 to 5.0 parts by weight of a crosslinking agent represented by the formula (III):



PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. -- National Stage Entry of PCT/JP99/06243

wherein one of R¹ and R² is -NH₂ and another one is -NH₂, -OH or -SH, R³ is -SO₂-, -O-, -CO-, an alkylene group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, a perfluoroalkylene group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms or a single bond.

15. (New) The fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of Claim 14, wherein a bisaminophenyl crosslinking agent of the formula (III), in which each of R¹ and R² is -NH₂, is used.

A4
B5
C6
D7
E8
F9
G10

16. (New) A process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer of Claim 3, which comprises polymerizing a fluorine-containing monomer by using, as one of a polymerization initiator and/or monomer, a compound giving carboxyl group to a trunk chain and/or branched chain and treating a polymerization product with an acid.

17. (New) The preparation process of Claim 16, wherein the polymerization of fluorine-containing monomer is carried out by emulsion polymerization method.

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18. (New) The fluorine-containing elastomer of Claim 11, which satisfies the following equation (1):

$$(S_{co}/S_{cf}) \times (D/D_p) \times (F/F_p) \geq 0.01 \quad (1)$$

wherein S_{co}, S_{cf}, D, D_p, F and F_p represent the following respective values.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. -- National Stage Entry of PCT/JP99/06243

Double cont.

~~S_{co}: Total area of absorbances at the absorptions derived from carbonyl group of associated and non-associated carboxyl groups having the absorption peaks at from 1,680 to 1,830 cm⁻¹ when measurement is made with FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be measured.~~

~~S_{cf}: Area of absorbance at absorption derived from a harmonic sound of C-F bond having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,840 cm⁻¹ when measurement is made with FT-IR with respect to the elastomer to be measured. In case where nitrile group is present, S_{cf} is a value obtained by subtracting an area of absorbance at absorption derived from nitrile group having an absorption peak at from 2,220 to 2,300 cm⁻¹ from a total area of absorbances at whole absorption having a peak at from 2,220 to 2,840 cm⁻¹.~~

~~D: Specific gravity of the aimed elastomer at 20°C.~~

~~D_p: Specific gravity (measured value: 2.03) at 20°C of a standard perfluoro elastomer (copolymer of tetrafluoroethylene/perfluoro(methyl vinyl ether) in a mole ratio of 58/42).~~

~~F: Fluorine content (% by weight) of the elastomer to be measured obtained by elemental analysis.~~

~~F_p: Fluorine content (measured value: 71.6 % by weight) of said standard perfluoro elastomer obtained by elemental analysis.~~

19. (New) A crosslinked fluorine-containing rubber molded article obtained by crosslinking the fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of Claim 3.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
U.S. Appln. No. -- National Stage Entry of PCT/JP99/06243

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20. (New) A crosslinked fluorine-containing rubber molded article obtained by crosslinking the fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of Claim 5.

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